



Voter Info

JANUARY, 2004

Hamilton County Board of Elections

Next Election-March 2004 Presidential Primary

Primary Objective:

To provide for fair and efficient elections throughout Hamilton County, and to fairly and equitably enforce all rules, regulations and laws that apply to elections.

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By Pamela Swafford, Deputy Director

The Primary Election, which will be held on March 2, 2004 is when we go to the polls, declare our party preference, and vote to nominate candidates who will represent our Party at the November 2nd, 2004 Presidential Election.

Not only will we **NOMINATE** our party candidates for President and Vice-President, but we will also nominate candidates for other Federal, State and Local Offices on the ballot this year.

We will also have the opportunity to **ELECT** County and State Central Committee members.

The elected Central Committee members make up the controlling committee of each political party.

Presidential Candidates' Delegates and Alternates will also be on the March 2nd Primary Ballot. The filing deadline for all the above offices was January 2, 2004.

If you have questions or need more information on the Primary Election please contact our office at 632-7015 or 632-7051.

YES - 2004 will be a very busy and exciting election year for all of us in Hamilton County. Share the excitement and **VOTE!**



"Promoting Voting"

Can 17 Year Olds Vote In A Primary Election?

By Diane Goldsmith, Administrator, Voter Registration Dept

Yes. Seventeen-year-olds who are registered may vote in a Primary Election providing they will be eighteen years old at the time of the next General Election.

However, they may vote in a

Primary Election ***only on candidates being nominated to run for office in the General Election.***

Seventeen-year olds ***may not vote in a Primary Election on issues or on political party central committee positions*** (precinct executives). If a seventeen year old will be eighteen by

the November 2, 2004 General Election and wishes to register to vote for the upcoming March 2, 2004 Presidential Primary Election, they must register thirty (30) days before the Primary.

The deadline to register for the March Presidential Primary Election is February 2, 2004.

Remember The Chads



By Melanie Allen, Coordinator, Community Outreach

Almost everyone in the nation became familiar with **chads** during the 2000 Presidential Election recount in

Florida. Chads are the small square pieces of paper that separate from a punch card ballot when the stylus is used to make a selection while voting for candidates or

issues. When using punch card ballots, always remember to turn the ballot to the reverse side and examine it to see whether any loose chads are attached. Chads that are still attached to a ballot card are referred to as pregnant, dimpled or hanging chads.

Remember to check your ballot for loose chads before placing it in the ballot box. If you notice that a chad has not completely dislodged from your ballot, you can simply remove it. Pursuant to H.B. 5 and R.C. 3506.16 each ballot is inspected by teams of BOE employees prior to the official count. All the ballots are then counted to pro-

duce the final election results. Final election results books are made available to the public for a nominal fee.

To obtain copies of results books contact Kathy Curran or Kathy Meyer in Administration at 632 - 7051 or 632-7015. Election results are also posted on our website at www.hamilton-co.org/boe.



Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

By Tony Reissig, Administrator, Operations Dept.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID FOR FIRST TIME VOTERS INCLUDE: CURRENT AND VALID PHOTO ID, UTILITY STATEMENT, BANK STATEMENT, GOVERNMENT CHECK, PAY CHECK OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDES THE VOTER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is federal election reform legislation that provides new mandates to state and local governments that will revolutionize the

election process throughout the United

States. In Ohio, one of the biggest changes that will occur is a switch from punch-card voting to electronic voting.

Other key changes to the election process created by HAVA include: 1) Voters will be able to review their selections before casting their ballot. 2) First time voters who registered by mail and did not provide their drivers license number or the last four digits of their social security number will be required to provide ID when they go to vote and will be assigned a special number to identify them. 3) At least one voting machine in each precinct will be

accessible to the disabled. 4) Provisional voting will be easier and provisional voters will be able to confirm if their ballot was counted by calling a toll-free telephone number or visiting a website. 5) A uniform and centralized statewide voter registration database will be implemented to ensure the accuracy of voter registration lists. 6) High school and college students will be able to volunteer as pollworkers.

Additional information regarding HAVA provisions is available at: <http://perform2.sos.state.oh.us/>

Electronic Voting is Coming...

By Julie Stautberg, Director

Ohio is in the process of implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). In Hamilton County, this means new voting equipment and additional registration requirements.

The Hamilton County Board of Elections has been preparing for the migration to electronic voting or DRE systems. With the passage of HAVA, federal and state appropriations, and the Secretary of State's

certification process, electronic voting will soon become a reality. The Board of Elections has conducted elections with three of the four companies approved by the Secretary of State, and all of the companies have visited Hamilton County to conduct demonstrations for pollworkers, voters, staff and the Board members.

All of the DRE systems have similar features, such as eliminating the potential of "over voting," audio ballots and a final

screen to review your selections and make changes before casting a ballot.

When Hamilton County picks its system there will be many opportunities for voters to have hands-on demonstrations. Look for the Board of Elections at community events, or call to set up a demonstration for your group.

The Board of Elections must select a system by January 15, 2004, so look for more details in future newsletters.

About The Board Of Elections

By Jerry Collier, Fiscal Officer

Under Ohio law the Hamilton County Board of Elections is charged with conducting all general, primary and special elections in the county.

The Board must establish voting precincts, made-up of no more than 1400 registered voters in each precinct. There are currently 1,013 precincts in Hamilton County.

The Board annually appoints pollworkers, two representatives from each political party, to staff each precinct polling place. One of these individuals is designated as Presiding Judge. The

political party of the winning gubernatorial candidate in the precinct determines the political party of the Presiding Judge. Money from the County General Fund pays for regularly scheduled elections, while local governments pay for special elections.

The two major parties make recommendations regarding who serves as members of the Hamilton County Board of Elections. The recommendations are sent to the Secretary of State who actually appoints the four members. Board memberships are evenly divided between the two parties. The Director and Deputy Director of the Board of Elections serve at the pleasure

of the Board. The Director is of the opposite political party of the Chairman of the Board; the Deputy Director is of the opposite party of the Director. All Board appointments are subject to approval by the Secretary of State.

Besides administering elections, the Board provides other voting and election related services to county citizens. A major service is registering voters throughout the county. Registrations are also available at BMV's public libraries and other designated agencies. The Board also administers, reviews and certifies all nominating petitions that are required to place a candidate or issue on the ballot.

Absentee Voting - Provides Voter Assistance

By Sally Krisel, Administrator, Absentee Voting Dept.

If you plan to be away from Hamilton County for the next election...if you are over age 62...if you are a fulltime fire fighter, peace officer or emergency medical service provider...or if illness, disability or infirmity prevent you from going to your polling place, you can apply to vote by Absentee ballot.

Voters can request an Absentee ballot ninety days before each election, up to the Saturday before every election. The

request must be in writing and include the voter's name, home address, where they want the ballot mailed (if temporarily outside Hamilton County), the reason for voting absentee and signature. New requests have to be sent for every election; there is no permanent Absentee listing. The BOE has request forms that are available by phone and on line at our website: www.hamilton-co.org/boe.

In addition to regular Absentee voting, the BOE provides Absentee voting assistance to those who cannot mark the ballot alone or who may be confined to a hospital bed or jail. In Hamilton

County over 100 nursing homes are contacted before each countywide election and Absentee Ballot requests are completed for all residents who need assistance to vote a ballot. Teams of BOE employees – paired one Democrat and one Republican – visit each home to help residents vote. Contact is also made the last week before an election at all local hospitals and jails. Qualified voters are delivered ballots, again by two BOE employees.

For more information on Absentee Voting, please call 632-7039, 632-7040 or 632-7044.

How To Contact Us

Administration	632-7015 or 7051
Absentee Voting	632-7039 or 7040
Campaign Finance & Ethics	632-7013 or 7014
Community Outreach	632-7030
Election Results	632-7051 or 7015
General Information	632-7000
Polling Places	632-7016 or 7022
Poll Workers	632-7041 or 7042
Voter Registration	632-7034 or 7047

Fax Numbers:

579-0988-Administration
744-9038-Absentee Voting
632-7074-Community Outreach
579-0111-Voter Registration

**Please include your signature and phone number on fax documents.*

Hamilton County Board of Elections

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Community Outreach

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Election Time Again!

By George Herrell

*Once again the time has come for us to reunite
We must elect our leaders and we want to do it right
So come and lend a hand dear friends we're going to
need assistance
To answer questions from citizens, who can be quite
persistent
We'll need your help to work the polls and to handle all
the booths
To organize the paperwork and help instruct the
youths
Elections are not won or lost by politicians or campaign
groups
The votes must first be counted by us and all our many
troops
Every time you join our team our gratitude's heart felt
So come on, it's election time and we really need your
help.*

To Help Call:

632-7041 Democrats or 632-7042 Republicans

VOTER INFO TIP...

TO DECLARE YOUR POLITICAL
PARTY AFFILIATION

YOU MUST VOTE IN A PRIMARY
ELECTION AND REQUEST A BALLOT
FOR THE PARTY OF YOUR CHOICE

March 2004 Primary Election - Important Dates

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| Thu. - Jan 1 | Applications for Absentee Ballots for 2004 may be accepted. |
| Fri. - Jan 2 | 4:00 p.m. Deadline for Declaration of Candidacy for Partisan Candidates. |
| Mon. - Jan 12 | 4:00 p.m. Deadline for Write-In Candidates to File Declaration of Intent. |
| Mon. - Feb 2 | Voter Registration Deadline for March 2004 Primary Election. |
| Fri. - Feb 6 | Absentee Voting for March Primary Begins. |
| Sat. - Feb 28 | Deadline for March 2004 Mail-In Absentee Ballot Applications. |
| Mon. - Mar 1 | 4:00 p.m. Deadline for Nominating Petitions of Independent Candidates Other Than President and Vice President, for Offices for Which a Primary Election May Be Held. |
| Tue. - Mar 2 | Primary Election Day. Polls Open from 6:30 a.m. Until 7:30 p.m.
Absentee Ballots Must be Returned, Except Overseas and Armed Service Voters. |
| Mon.- Mar 22 | Deadline for Out-of-Country Civilian Absentee Ballots Which Must Be Post-Marked or Signed on or Before the Close of Polls on March 2.

Deadline for Out-of-Country Military Ballots Which Must Be Signed on or Before March 2. |